

**Opening Statement for Charles W. Boustany Jr., MD**  
**Social Security Subcommittee Hearing on**  
***Social Security & Public Servants: Ensuring Equal Treatment***  
**March 22, 2016**

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- ☐ Chairman Johnson, Members of the Subcommittee, I extend my deepest appreciation for the important hearing taking place today, and the opportunity to speak.
- ☐ As Members of Congress, elected by the people we represent, it is our duty each and every day to ensure the government is *working* for the people!
- ☐ Over the years I have served the people of Louisiana's Third Congressional district, I've received countless letters from constituents that have selflessly devoted a lifetime's worth of work in service to their communities as teachers, firefighters, police officers, public transit employees, and the like.
- ☐ I was horrified to learn that simply because one chooses the life of a public servant, and receives retirement benefits as a result, that they will no longer be able to collect the full amount of Social Security owed to them.
- ☐ One constituent whose story has stayed with me is Mr. William Watson. Mr. Watson contacted me in 2015 to ask why his wife, a teacher in my district for many years, would not receive the full Social Security survivor benefits she is owed when he passed away; after all, he said, "...I faithfully paid into Social Security all my life, and have depended on my wife having the earned financial security through Social Security benefits when I'm no longer here to take care of her. If I earned those benefits, and my wife has served her community as a teacher all her life, why would the government penalize us for seemingly doing everything right?"
- ☐ Mr. Watson raises a valid point. The current impact of the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset is detrimental and must be fixed.
- ☐ Mr. Chairman, I hope today's hearing is the first step toward swift correction of the GPO issue; folks like Mr. Watson and his wife are depending on us!
- ☐ I stand ready to work with you, and other members of the Committee, to work with our constituents to ensure meaningful and correct changes are made, so that certainty is provided to those who have provided so much to all of us.